

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated May 6, 2004, having a shortened statutory period set to expire August 6, 2004.

In paragraph 2 of the present Office Action, Claim 12 is objected to as containing an informality. The cancellation of Claim 12 herein renders this objection moot.

In paragraph 4 of the present Office Action, Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,987,605 to *Hill et al. (Hill)* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,4438,687 to *Klein* and U.S. Patent No. 5,999,447 to *Naura et al. (Naura)*. That rejection is respectfully traversed as it might be applied to the claims as amended herein, and favorable reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully submits that exemplary Claim 1 is not rendered unpatentable by the cited combination of *Hill*, *Klein*, and *Naura* because that combination does not teach or suggest each feature of the initialization system recited therein. For example, the combination of cited references does not teach or suggest, "a hardware initialization port capable of receiving a first set of user-definable initialization data utilized for initializing said data processing system" or the coupling of such a hardware initialization port to a multiplexor for selection of the first set of user-definable initialization data as claimed.

Page 3 of the present Office Action notes that *Hill* does not disclose the above feature of exemplary Claim 1 and relies upon *Klein* as teaching, "how a user may enter parameters to be used in the initialization process and/or to be further stored into the memories [col. 5, lines 64-67, and col. 6, lines 1-14]" (bracketing in original). However, the cited portion of *Klein* does not disclose a hardware initialization port, but instead teaches the use of "a conventional utility program" (col. 6, lines 5-6) to permit a user to change default configuration values. This is because the cited portion of *Klein* is not directed to initialization to a minimal level of operation as in the present invention, but is instead directed to subsequent steps in the boot process of a conventional personal computer system.

Because the combination of *Klein*, *Hill* and *Naura* does not teach or suggest each feature of exemplary Claim 1, similar Claims 7 and 9, and their respective dependent claims, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of Claims 1-14 in view of the combination of cited references is overcome.

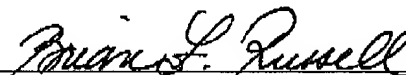
With respect to dependent Claim 3, Applicant further points out that the combination of cited references fails to teach or suggest the set of initialization resistors recited therein. With respect to the recited set of initialization resistors, paragraph 7 of the present Office Action cites col. 6, lines 2-6 of *Klein*, which, as noted above, discloses the use of a conventional setup utility program to input user-desired configuration parameters.

Although the cited passages contains no teaching or suggestion of initialization resistors, the Examiner states without support that "it would have been obvious ... to use initialization resistors, or other storage means, to store said input from the user. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's assertion of obviousness not only because it has no objective support in the reference, but also because it is technically inaccurate because resistors are not "storage means" as inferred by the Examiner's statement. Because the combination of references, and *Klein* in particular, does not teach or suggest the claimed set of initialization resistors, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of Claim 3 is overcome.

Having now responded to each objection and rejection set forth in the present Office Action, Applicant believes all pending claims are now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests such allowance.

No additional fee is believed to be required. If, however, any additional fees are required, please charge those fees to IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 09-0456.

Respectfully submitted,



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